

# Wisconsin Charter Schools Program: Federal Funds for Charter Schools

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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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# Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Charter Schools Overview**
- **Overview of Federal Grant**
- **Grant Requirements & Allowable Costs**
- **Wisconsin Resource Center for Charter Schools**
- **Questions/Answers**



# Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools

- Publicly funded
- Tuition-free
- Open to all (random admissions)
- May not discriminate in admissions
- Voluntary attendance
- Non-sectarian
- Part of the state accountability system
- Subject to/participate in major federal programs (e.g. IDEA, Title I, etc.)



# Charter Schools

## However, charter schools are also:

- Established by contract between an authorizer and charter school operator/governing board
- Held to performance standards included in contract
- Intended to be flexible/innovative
- Generally exempt from §§ 115-121
- Governed by independent board



# Authorizer

- Legally designated entity with authority to charter/contract
- Directly responsible for oversight
- Makes decisions about renewal/revocation



# Authorizer Responsibilities in WI

- Solicit and evaluate applications
- Consider NACSA principles & standards
- Give preference to schools that serve at-risk students
- Approve only charter school applications that serve an identified educational need
- Monitor performance/compliance
- Submit Annual Authorizer Report



# Table of Independent Authorizers

Charter Authorizer	School Location	Pupil Residency	Number of Charter Schools
City of Milwaukee (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
The Chancellor of any Institution in the UW System (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Each WI Technical College District Board (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited
Waukesha County Executive (2r)	Waukesha County	Statewide	Unlimited
College of Menominee Nation (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	No more than 6 schools between these two authorizers
Lac Courte Orielles Ojibwa Community College (2r)	Statewide	Statewide	
Office of Educational Opportunity (UW System) (2x)	Statewide	Statewide	Unlimited



# Charter Schools in WI

- 234 Charter Schools in WI (In 98 Districts and Every CESA)
- Wis. Stat. §118.40
- District-Authorized Charter Schools (211)
- Independently Authorized Charter Schools (2r and 2x) (23)
- 39 VCS in WI





# Financial Considerations

- Contract Specifies Amount
- Contract Specifies Financial and Programmatic Audits
- Federal Funding (Formula and Discretionary) Charters Must Receive Fair Share, DPI Ensures This



# Funding

- District Authorized: Pupils Included in Membership
- Legacy Independent Authorizers
- New Independent Authorizers



# Funding for ICS

Program	2017-18 FTE Payment Amounts	State/Local Funding Sources	Counted in Resident District's State Aid	Counted in Resident District's Revenue Limit	Nonrecurring Revenue Limit Exemption	Increase Levy to Backfill Deduction	Other
Legacy ICS	\$8,395 K-12	Proportional state general aid reduction from all districts	No	No	No	Yes	
New ICS	\$8,395 K-12	Aid transfer equal to ICS payment from resident school districts.	Yes	Yes	No	No	One year delay for state aids membership and three year phase in for revenue limits.

# Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP)

- **WI one of nine States to receive FY 2017 State Entities Grant Program award**
- **WI received \$95 million (largest) award**
  - 90% Subgrants
  - 7% Technical Assistance
  - 3% Administrative



# Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP)

- State Entities can award subgrants to eligible applicants to:
  - Open and Prepare for the Operation of New Schools
  - Open and Prepare for the Operation of Replicated High-Quality Schools
  - Expand High-Quality Schools



# Available Funds

Grant Type	Student Enrollment	
	Fewer than 150 Students	150 Students or More
Total Five Year Maximum		
Planning (up to 1 year)	Up to \$150,000	Up to \$150,000
Implementation	Up to \$550,000	Up to \$650,000
Maximum Base Funding	\$700,000	\$800,000
Additional Secondary Funding	Up to \$100,000	Up to \$100,000
Maximum Total Funding	\$800,000	\$900,000

\*No grant award will exceed \$900,000, including those that receive supplemental secondary funding



# Available Funds

Grant Type	Student Enrollment	
	Fewer than 150 Students	150 Students or More
Total Five Year Maximum (optional planning year)		
Expansion/Replication	Up to \$550,000	Up to \$650,000
Additional Secondary Funding	Up to \$100,000	Up to \$100,000
Maximum Total Funding	\$650,000	\$750,000



# Wisconsin Charter Schools Program

## Objectives:

1. Support the growth of high-quality charter schools in Wisconsin, especially those focused on improving academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged secondary (7-12) charter school students.
2. Strengthen and improve authorizing quality and promote the adoption of best practices for all authorizers in Wisconsin.
3. Promote and support collaboration and sharing of best practices between high-quality charter schools and other schools in the state, especially those that experience difficulty in adequately serving educationally disadvantaged students.





# Educationally Disadvantaged Students

- The term “educationally disadvantaged students” means economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, migrant students, limited English proficient students (also referred to as English learners or English language learners), neglected or delinquent students, or homeless students.



# Eligible Applicant

An eligible applicant is a developer that--

- (1) has applied to an authorizer to operate a charter school [that meets federal definition]; and
- (2) has provided adequate and timely notice to the authorizer that an application for federal charter school funds will be submitted.

Developer: an individual or group of individuals (including a public or private nonprofit organization), which may include school staff, parents, and other members of the local community who are working collaboratively to create a charter school



# Grant Proposal Requirements

- Schools must demonstrate, in their proposal, that the charter school:
  - ✓ Meets the federal definition of a charter school
  - ✓ Will improve student academic achievement
  - ✓ Is independent and autonomous
  - ✓ Is a school and not a program
  - ✓ Is financially viable and sustainable



# Expansion

- The term “expand” means to significantly increase enrollment or add one or more grades to a high-quality charter school.
- “Significant increase in enrollment” means to increase enrollment by 20% or 20 pupils, whichever is greater.



# Replication

- The term “replicate” means to open a new charter school, or a new campus of a high-quality charter school, based on the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school, under an existing charter contract or an additional charter contract.



# Replication/Expansion Requirements

**Replication/Expansion Applicants must:**

- **Provide evidence that the school is high quality, and**
- **Provide evidence that the charter school will thrive and be financially viable.**



# Budget Summary Table

Applicants must complete a budget summary table and provide the amounts expected to be expended in each major category for each year of the grant period.

- An explanation of the cost and justification of why it is necessary to carry-out the activities of the proposal is required for each line item.
- Grant recipients may make budget adjustments up to 10 percent higher or lower in any approved category; changes larger than 10 percent require DPI approval.



# Activity Timeline

- Applicants must provide a detailed activity timeline that clearly articulates the activities and the expected outcomes of those activities for each year of the grant. Activities must be connected to the costs outlined in the Budget Summary.





# Budget Narrative

**Applicants must:**

- **Provide a budget narrative that provides a rationale for why expenses are necessary. The narrative should be consistent with the Budget Summary and Activity Timeline, but should offer greater detail including specific items and the cost of items that will be purchased.**
- **Describe how other federal program funds available to the charter school; e.g., Title I and IDEA funds, will be used.**
- **Describe the method by which controls over expenditures and records of expenditures will be maintained.**



# Budget

- Applicants must ensure that all costs included in the proposed budget are reasonable and necessary in light of the goals and objectives included in the grant proposal.
- Any costs determined to be unallowable, unreasonable or unnecessary will be removed from the final budget.



# Five-Year Budget Worksheets

Applicants must:

- Complete the five-year budget worksheets to indicate the total projected cost of operating the charter school for each of the five years of the grant period.
- The budget worksheets should include all expenditures and revenues from state, local, federal and other funds including the anticipated federal charter school grant funds.



# Sustainability Plan

Applicants must:

- Provide a plan on how the school's innovative offerings and professional development will be sustained and continued after the charter school grant expires, including a multi-year financial and operating model. This should include fundraising activities by the charter board, maintenance of current staff, governance board development, community involvement, etc.
- This plan must demonstrate that the charter school can continue to operate in a manner consistent with its CSP application when CSP funds are no longer available



# Allowable Costs

- Costs associated with preparing teachers, schools leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel
- Professional development,
- Hiring and compensating during planning – teachers, schools leaders, and/or specialized instructional support personnel.



# Allowable Costs

- Acquiring necessary supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials).
- Carry out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction).



# Allowable Costs

- Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school.
- Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.
- Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to activities in opening and preparing for the operation of charter schools.



# Costs Not Allowed

- School year salary and fringe benefits.
- Student instruction or on-line tuition costs.
- Honorariums to governance board members.
- Remodeling or construction
- Applicants are urged to contact DPI to ask about questionable items prior to submitting a proposal





# Grant Logistics

- The LEA serves as the fiscal agent for the grant.
- Subgrant expenditures will be reimbursed by the DPI according to established procedures.
- School district recipients must account for funds using codes from the Wisconsin Uniform Financial Accounting Requirements (WUFAR).



# Grant Logistics

- Subgrantees must maintain appropriate fiscal and program documentation.
- In addition, DPI charter school staff will conduct site visits of funded applicants.
- The CSP program will utilize WISEgrants for budgeting and claiming. Training will be provided at a later date.
- As a condition of their award subgrantees and authorizers will be required to participate in technical assistance activities.



# Grant Review Process

- Applications will be evaluated and rated by an experienced external review panel whose members have no vested interest in the applications under consideration.
- The evaluation panel will submit funding recommendations to the state superintendent for final approval. Amounts requested may be reduced.



# Grant Review Process

- Consistent with federal regulations, the DPI evaluates each subrecipient's (LEA) risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward.
- Before awarding grants under this competition the DPI conducts a review of the risks posed by applicants and determines appropriate subrecipient monitoring.



# Timeline

- Applications posted January 26
- Applications due March 9
- Award notifications made by end of May
- Grant period begins July 1, 2018



# WRCCS

- **Wisconsin Resource Center for Charter Schools**
  - Charter School Development Program
  - Governance Board Development Program
  - Authorizer Training Program
  - Model Application
  - Model Contract



# Questions



# Thank You

- **Contact**

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